

Electrical code issues and answers.

● Public Hearings on the new WAC Rules WAC 296-46A and WAC 296-401B

L&I is now receiving public comment on proposed revisions of WAC 296-46 to WAC 296-46A and WAC 296-401B. The revised rules will become effective in January 2001.

Public Hearings are scheduled as follows:			
TUMWATER	EVERETT	YAKIMA	SPOKANE
11/27/2000	11/28/2000	11/29/2000	11/30/2000
L&I Auditorium	Best Western Cascadia	West Coast Yakima Center	West Coast Grand
7273 Linderson Way SW	2800 Pacific Ave	607 E Yakima Ave	303 W North River Dr
L & I telephone	Hotel telephone:	Hotel telephone:	Hotel telephone:
(360) 902-5259	(425) 258-4141	(509) 248-5900	(509) 326-8000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All public hearings will be held between 1:30 PM and 6:30 PM. Please call (360) 902-5259 if you have questions regarding these hearings. 			

You may receive a copy of the proposed rules at our web-site www.wa.gov/lni/electrical. Public comment will be accepted during the hearings and in writing through November 30, 2000. Written comments should be sent to:

Chief Electrical Inspector
Electrical Section
PO Box 44460
Olympia, WA 98504-4460

● Code Question of the Month.

The answer to last month's code question is "3 inches" and is found in NEC 300-14.

This month's question: Where is the branch circuit overcurrent protection device for an elevator car air conditioning unit to be located?

- A. Above the elevator car
- B. In the elevator machine room
- C. At the air conditioning unit
- D. None of the above

The answer to this code question will be on the next Electrical Currents issue.

● Can Third Party Testing Laboratories Inspect Electrical Installations?

NO. Product suitability may be evidenced by listing and labeling but electrical installations, whether made in prefabricated structures in a factory or in buildings in the field, fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Labor and industries or cities and towns who have inspection authority under Chapter 19.28 RCW.

Sometimes a structure containing an electrical installation arrives at the job site bearing a testing laboratory's listing mark. The department will recognize listing marks on individual equipment installed within these structures as evidence that the equipment meets an appropriate standard. The department will not recognize a listing mark that seemingly encompasses the entire installation of equipment and wiring within a manufactured structure. Only the department, cities, and towns, who have electrical inspection authority, may inspect the electrical installation within or on these or any other structures. The installation of electrical equipment remains under the jurisdiction of the department or other local authority and there is no listing mark that replaces an electrical inspection done by a qualified electrical inspector.

● **L&I's Electrical Program Can Help You Achieve and Maintain Competitive Advantage**

The L&I electrical program's primary responsibility is to ensure safe electrical installations for places where people live, play and work.

The electrical program ensures electrical safety while providing competitive advantage. We provide electrical protection services to Washington consumers and workers and ensure compliance with Washington State laws and construction-industry standards. We work in collaboration with the regions by leading, coordinating and directing statewide activities that promote uniform certification, licensing and enforcement. We respect our customers and assist them in complying with applicable laws through technical information, education, and communication.

The electrical program strives to provide our customers with personnel, process, place, promotion, price, and product. We are constantly monitoring for successes in both the public and private sectors for new ideas and methods. We adapt these successes to become more efficient and effective while at the same time providing for public safety and adding competitive advantage for our customers in the electrical industry.

Personnel: We have quality employees who develop positive relationships with our customers. We also help to ensure the electrical industry workforce is competent and able to perform high quality installations.

Process: We are committed to developing a simple and fair process for business. We promote regulatory improvement, creating new rules that make sense and work well for our customers. Rules must be necessary, fair, understandable and consistent.

Place: Location, location, location! We have offices located statewide where our customers can do business with us on a personal level. We now offer many services on-line and will soon have the ability for all customers to purchase permits, request inspections, and perform licensing activities on-line. We have an extensive web-site (www.wa.gov/lni/electrical) where up to date information, publications and forms are available as well as automatic notification of information affecting our customers.

Promotion: We want our customers to know what is going on. We use electronic media, e-commerce, publications, presentations, and one-on-one conversation to promote and develop customer ownership and responsibility through communication, honesty and trust.

Price: We offer our customers efficient services at affordable and fair prices.

Product: We ensure that Washington is a safe place to live and work. We are continually moving to develop streamlined processes and less expensive ways for our customers to do business.

The electrical program combines integrity, respect, trust, partnership, ownership and responsibility into an effective program allowing us to deliver constantly improving products for our customers. Providing for public safety and helping our customers achieve their goals is the key to the L&I electrical program's long-term success.